

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) has secured \$3.1 Million in federal funding for important public projects in Florida's 13th District. The money was included in the omnibus appropriations bill signed into law this week by President Obama.

The bill also includes \$500,000 sought by the Congressman for an Intelligent Transportation System, also known as Advanced Traffic Management System, to reduce road congestion in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

"This funding will allow Sarasota and Manatee counties to coordinate efforts to monitor and improve the flow of traffic," said Buchanan. "The project will reduce congestion, increase safety, and conserve energy."

The project is expected to reduce vehicular delay by 9.5 million hours per year and reduce fuel consumption by 3.8 million gallons per year.

Manatee County Commission Chair Gwen Brown said, "Another hurrah for Manatee County and a thank you to Congressman Buchanan. This will help with moving traffic through the two counties and possibly save lives."

"Congressman Buchanan's help has been essential in enabling us to implement a high-tech signal-control system and to construct a joint Sarasota-Manatee regional traffic management center to provide coordinated, efficient traffic management," said Jon Thaxton, Sarasota County Commission chair. "With these federal dollars, we can provide Sarasota and Manatee county citizens with an advanced traffic-management system that improves traffic flow and safety."

Buchanan secured an additional \$150,000 in federal funding to further assist in the redevelopment of the Robert L. Taylor Community Center in Newtown.

"This is the most heavily used recreation center in the City of Sarasota," said Buchanan. "Most of the facilities are in need of complete renovation or replacement. This will help convert the existing facilities to a state of the art community center that will meet the area's recreational, social and community service needs."

"Our number one goal in the City of Sarasota is the redevelopment of Newtown," said Sarasota Mayor Richard Clapp. "I thank Congressman Buchanan for his continued support in procuring funding for this very important community asset. The redevelopment of the Robert L. Taylor Complex has been a long process."

The bill includes \$100,000 sought by Buchanan for a new Family Service Center in the City of North Port, which will house the City's Social Services Division as well as 12 other community agencies.

"This center will provide area residents with easy access to a variety of health and human services," said Buchanan.

North Port Commission Chair Vanessa Carusone said, "In these economic times it is a breath of

fresh air that Congressman Buchanan took a stand for the families of North Port.”

The bill includes \$150,000 Buchanan requested to support efforts to expand the Child Advocacy Center in Sarasota.

“The center’s current facility limits their ability to provide services vital to the health and safety of abused children,” noted Buchanan. “This funding will help boost their efforts to build a new center that will allow them to expand their counseling program and provide additional medical services to abused children.”

“Congressman Buchanan is a true champion of protecting Florida’s children,” said Dr. Hal H. Hedley, President and CEO of the Child Protection Center. “Families are stressed and the incidence of child abuse is reaching epidemic numbers. These funds will provide abused children with treatment, intervention, and help prevent child abuse.”

Buchanan also secured \$350,000 on behalf of Sarasota County for the construction of a new health facility in Englewood.

The Congressman said, “This facility will improve access to health care and a variety of human and social services programs for area residents of both Sarasota and Charlotte counties.”

“We are grateful for Congressman Buchanan’s dedication to help our citizens through gaining federal funding for the Englewood Wellness Center”, said Jon Thaxton, Sarasota County Commission chair. “The center is especially important in times of economic stress when the demand for services increases. This will greatly improve access to health, human and social services for the residents of southern Sarasota County and Charlotte County.”

\$250,000 was included in the bill by Buchanan to help address nursing shortages by supporting educational development at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus.

“Critical nursing shortages continue to grow as our population ages,” said Buchanan. “The University is preparing to establish a College of Nursing on campus that will allow them to reach and educate the southern-most portions of Florida.”

The federal funding will support the development of a teaching simulation laboratory, equipping a videoconference classroom, and the development of web, on-site, and blended courses at the University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee Campus.

“We are delighted at this point in our separate accreditation process to get additional support for the College of Nursing, as this continues to be a strong workforce issue in the state of Florida,” said USF Sarasota-Manatee President Dr. Arthur Guilford. “This will enable us to expand nursing opportunities to include even more coursework in south Sarasota County and help us to educate more nurses in our region.”

Finally, the bill includes \$100,000 Buchanan requested to help New College of Florida engage and enhance the digital assets at the Jane Bancroft Cook Library, a joint-use facility for New

College of Florida, the University of South Florida Sarasota/Manatee, State College of Florida, and residents of Manatee and Sarasota counties.

“Libraries are no longer about books and card catalogs,” said Buchanan. “This funding will help the Jane Bancroft Cook Library become a center for community research and civic engagement.”

New College of Florida President Gordon E. Michalson said, “This gratifying enhancement of the Smart Library will underwrite our capacity to stay current with the rapidly changing technologies affecting college and university libraries. Moreover, this support affects not simply New College and neighboring institutions, but the entire region of Southwest Florida in ways that will benefit citizens of the state for years to come.”

Finally, the bill includes \$1.5 million in federal funding requested by Buchanan for the Science Consortium for Ocean Replenishment at Mote Marine.

“Mote Marine is a global leader in marine sciences,” said Buchanan. “This funding will support their efforts to increase our understanding of the sea and develop an economical and environmentally friendly fishery management strategy to replenish our nation’s critically depleted fisheries.”

“This funding will help Mote and our partners at Florida Fish and Wildlife, the NOAA-NMFS lab in Seattle, Hubbs Research Institute in California, the University of New Hampshire and the University of Southern Mississippi continue to play the leading role in the development and expansion of a responsible approach to stock enhancement in Florida and the United States,” said Dr. Kumar Mahadevan, President and CEO of Mote Marine Laboratory. “We thank Congressman Buchanan for his support and for helping Mote lead this important research to preserve and enhance saltwater sports fisheries.”

The two-term lawmaker opposed the \$450 billion omnibus package, which increased spending by a total of 12 percent.

“I am not opposed to worthwhile spending on important public projects,” said Buchanan. “But this bill spends too much money at a time of record deficits. We need to change the way we do business in Washington and cut wasteful spending.”